

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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P R 222041Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5832
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6203

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, INS, ELAB, SHUM, PE
SUBJECT: GOP MOVES AGAINST ANTI-GOVERNMENT UNIONS AND
INDEPENDENT WEEKLIES

REF: LIMA 6101, LIMA 6060

1. JULIO CRUZADO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF CTP (APRA) LABOR
CONFEDERATION, TOLD EMBOFF JULY 21 THAT THE GOP HAD
ARRESTED MOST OF LEADERSHIP OF THE MOSCOW-LINE LABOR
CONFEDERATION (CGTPL, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LABOR
CONFEDERATION (CNT), THE FAR-LEFT TEACHERS' UNION (SUTEP),
THE FAR-LEFT BANK WORKERS UNION (FEB), AND OTHER UNIONS
WHICH ORGANIZED THE ILLEGAL JULY 19 STRIKE (REFTELS). CRUZADO
ALSO INDICATED THAT THE CGTP'S LIMA HEADQUARTERS HAD BEEN
CLOSED DOWN AND THAT HIS SINGLED THE BEGINNING OF A
GOP CAMPAIGN TO BREAK THE POWER OF COMMUNIST AND ALLIED
UNIONS, WHICH THE GOP HOLDS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT
NATION-WIDE SERIES OF STRIKES AND PROTESTS. CRUZADO
NOTED THAT MOST CTP WORKERS DID NOT SUPPORT THE JULY
19 STRIKE ALTHOUGH IN MANY CASES IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR
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THEM TO GET TO WORK BECAUSE OF TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS.

2. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE JULY 20
SAYING THAT THE GOP HOLDS THE CGTP LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE JULY 19 STRIKE AND DISTURBANCES A GUARDIA CIVIL
OFFICIAL INFORMED THE EMBASSY JULY 21 THAT THE LABOR
LEADERS ALREADY DETAINED WOULD BE TRIED ON CHARGES RELATED

TO ILLEGAL STRIKE ACTIVITY, DEATHS AND INJURIES THAT OCCURRED JULY 19, AND DAMAGE TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY BY VIOLENT DEMONSTRATORS. TRIALS WILL ALLEGEDLY BE CONDUCTED UNDER CIVIL RATHER THAN MILITARY CODE. ONE SOURCE CONTENDS AS MANY AS 400 PERSONS DETAINED OR ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE STRIKE, BUT SOME MAY BE RELEASED WITHOUT TRIAL.

3. THE GOP ANNOUNCED A DECREE LAW JULY 22 PERMITTING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMPANIES TO DISMISS LABOR LEADERS AND WORKERS INVOLVED IN THE JULY 19 STRIKE. THE FIRING OF SUCH WORKERS MUST BE EFFECTED WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE DECREE LAW AND THE LABOR MINISTRY MUST RECEIVE WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF WORKERS DISMISSED.

4. IN A MOVE AGAINST ANTI-GOVERNMENT PRESS COVERAGE RELATED TO THE DISTURBANCES, THE GOP HAS REPORTEDLY ASSIGNED TWO OFFICERS OF THE PERUVIAN INVESTIGATIONS POLICE (PIP) TO EACH OF THE INDEPENDENT WEEKLIES TO ACT AS CENSORS. THE LOCAL EMPLOYEE IN CHARGE OF THE LIMA ASSOCIATED PRESS OFFICE DURING THE ABSENCE OF THE AP CORRESPONDENT INFORMS THE EMBASSY THAT SINCE JULY 19 HIS OFFICE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SEND OUT WIRE PHOTOS. HE SAYS THAT THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE ANY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND THINKS THAT THE GOP IN SOME WAY IS INTERFERING. UP HAS APPARENTLY HAD NO SUCH PROBLEM.

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BE ANY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND THINKS THAT THE GOP IN SOME WAY IS INTERFERING. UP HAS APPARENTLY HAD NO SUCH PROBLEM.

5. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GOP INTENDS TO DEAL FIRMLY WITH THOSE UNION LEADERS IT HOLDS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE JULY 19 STRIKE, ALTHOUGH APPARENTLY THROUGH DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES. IN THE PAST THE GOP HAS PREFERRED TO DEPORT PROMINENT ANTI-GOVERNMENT LEADERS BUT THIS TIME IT IS THREATENING PRISON TERMS AND, AT THE VERY MINIMUM, WILL CURTAIL SOME UNION LEADERS' ACTIVITIES. SINCE THE LEADERS IN QUESTION ARE EITHER COMMUNISTS, ALLIED WITH THE COMMUNISTS, OR FAR-LEFTISTS, THE BENEFICIARY OF THE GOP ACTION WILL BE THE APRA-BACKED AND ANTI-COMMUNIST CTP. THE CTP LEADERSHIP RECOGNIZES THIS AND INTENDS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO WOO BACK RANK AND FILE UNIONS LOST TO THE COMMUNIST CONFEDERATION RECENT YEARS.

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